

REMARKS

1. The Application was filed with Claims 1-35, which are pending in the application. The Office Action objects to informalities in Claims 4-9, 11-12, 16-21, 23-24, 27-32, and 34-35. These claims have been amended in a non-narrowing manner to correct grammar in these claims. The Examiner is thanked for his courtesy in pointing out the errors. A number of the claims have also been amended to clarify selections from the Markush groups already present in the claims. No new matter was added in amending the claims.

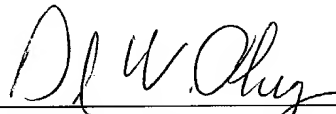
2. Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,640,249 to Michel Bowman-Amuah ("Bowman-Amuah"). This rejection is traversed because the subject matter in Bowman-Amuah cited by the Examiner is not the work of another but is the Applicants' own work. Thus, the cited portion of Bowman-Amuah does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In support of this, Applicants submit declarations of Inventors Kaltenmark and Gilliland under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132. These inventors have declared that at least the portion of U.S. Pat. No. 6,640,249 cited in the rejections, Figs. 15 and 24, were their own invention. The declarations are attached at Appendices A and B.

The declaration and attachments demonstrate that the subject matter relied on in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) was Applicants' own invention. The declarations cite Chapter 6 of the book, "Netcentric and Client/Server Computing," by Goodyear et al., already cited in an Information Disclosure Statement submitted for this application. The inventors declare that they are the authors of Chapter 6, to which Bowman-Amuah made no contribution. Thus, to the extent that other subject matter in Bowman-Amuah is found at least in Chapter 6 of Goodyear, that other subject matter is also not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). A copy of Chapter 6 is attached at Appendix C for the convenience of the Examiner. The book containing Chapter 6 was published on December 18, 1998, less than a year before the filing of Provisional Appl. 60/156,962, filed October 1, 1999, to which the present application claims priority. Evidence from a seller of the book is attached at Appendix D in support of the date of publication.

3. Applicants have overcome the rejections by preparing and executing a declaration that the invention disclosed in the reference was their invention. Accordingly, Claims 1-35 are allowable. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicant via telephone at 312-321-4711 if such communication would expedite this application or would be helpful to the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. W. Okey", written over a horizontal line.

David W. Okey
Registration No. 42,959
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
One Indiana Square, Suite 1600
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-636-0886